

To whom it may concern:

I am a Flight attendant for a major airline and against allowing passengers to use cell phones in flight. This NPRM regarding the use of wireless devices onboard airborne aircraft, would leave it up to flight attendants to police the use of cell phones onboard the aircraft compromising our ability to maintain a safe, secure cabin environment and to conduct emergency evacuations.

When passengers use their cell phones they don't hear anything else. That's the same reason there have been so many automobile accidents involving people who were distracted because they were using a cell phone. If you allow passengers to use their cell phones in-flight:

- Who will hear the safety announcements???
- How will they know when to fasten their seatbelts??
- How will they (especially the ones sitting in the window exits) know that the Captain just made a P/A announcing an emergency situation that will require an evacuation of the airplane?
- What if Cell phone use would enable terrorists to coordinate a plan of action more effectively?

It is hard enough now to get passengers to just turn off both cell phones and electronic devices before departing the gate. We make the announcement at least twice to turn off all electronic devices: once (sometimes twice) before the door is closed and again during the safety demonstration. Before we can start the Safety demonstration, there is an average of 5 people who either, didn't hear the announcements because they were talking on the phone, or decide to ignore the announcements and F/A instructions and continue talking. Some even decide to make a call after the flight attendants sit down while plane is taxiing to the runway although they heard the announcements but don't think it applies to them. I can't even count the number of people that I have caught attempting to make calls or trying to transmit e-mails or connect to the internet in-flight.

I have had to define the meaning of "electronic" so many times to people who don't know the meaning of the word, that I no longer use the word "electronic". I now say "BATTERY OPERATED" device.

People who own the Blackberry devices think they don't have to turn them off because they have "AIRPLANE MODE" and worse than that people who have phones with "airplane mode" will argue that their cell phone is off and that they can continue to use it as long as it is in "airplane mode".

What about the privacy of people who don't have cell phones who may want to sleep during an all night flight but can't because they are sitting next to someone talking loudly on a phone? It would make an already tense cabin environment even more stressful.